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SUBJECT Political Parties in Guayaquil Area

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1. Luis Maldonado Tamayo, former Ecuadoran Ambassador to Mexico who returned to Quito a few months ago to head the reorganization of the administration party, Movimiento Civico Democratico Nacional (MCDN), has stated that he soon will resign if he does not receive stronger support from the administration. He made this statement after his return from a trip to Guayaquil on 8 March to confer with MCDN leaders in that city about increasing MCDN voting power in the coastal area. He found administration support there scattered and poorly organized, having dwindled since 1948 to about 120 men under Luis Rios and about 80 under Alfredo Gomez.
2. A major setback to the MCDN was the withdrawal of Guayaquil Mayor Rafael Guerrero Valenzuela from the MCDN in the June congressional elections. Guerrero has indicated that in the future his support will probably go to the Alianza Democratica Ecuatoriana (ADE), the leftist political group in Guayaquil which has the support of the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE). His decision is believed to be a result of the influence of his political adviser, Pedro Jorge Vera, a staunch ADE supporter. Most of the rest of the MCDN's former supporters have joined Carlos Guevara Moreno's Concentracion de Fuerzas Populares (CFP).
3. It is estimated that the MCDN, counting on active supporters and federal employees, controls about one fifth of the voting strength in the Guayas province and that an ADE-Guerrero coalition and the CFP could also control about one fifth each. The remaining two fifths are at present supporters of no particular group, but it is believed that many of them will be drawn to the CFP before the congressional elections in June. Conservative and Liberal strength in Guayaquil is negligible.
4. The PCE estimates that the voting strength of the ADE in the Guayas province is fairly evenly divided between the Communists and the Socialists with the Communists considerably stronger in the Guayaquil canton but weaker in the smaller outlying cantons. Party leaders estimate that the two groups could count on approximately 7,500 votes and that the followers of Francisco Arizaga Luque, head of the ADE, would increase that total by about 800. It is further believed that in the event of an ADE-Guerrero coalition, the ADE would have the support of Guerrero's municipal employees and supporters, who number about 3,500.

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